



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

April 26, 2001

Contact: Patrick Lacefield 240-777-7939 Jean Arthur 240-777-7934

COUNTY COUNCIL COMMITTEE APPROVES ADDITIONAL RED LIGHT CAMERAS AND VICTIM ASSISTANCE

**N
E
W
S

R
E
L
E
A
S
E**

The Montgomery County Council's Public Safety Committee today voted to recommend to the full Council funding an additional 15 cameras to photograph red light runners.

The committee's recommendation would bring the total number of cameras to 25 and increase the number of intersections they will be rotated among to 35. Fines paid by those caught running red lights will offset the cost of operating the cameras and administering the program.

"More than 30,000 vehicles were photographed and cited for running red lights in the past year at 10 county intersections" said Councilmember Phil Andrews, Chair of the Public Safety Committee. "Adding 15 more cameras will help deter drivers from endangering themselves and others."

The committee also is recommending approval of \$137,110 for five additional victim assistance workers; one each to be located in the Bethesda, Germantown, Rockville, Silver Spring, and Wheaton police district stations.

"Improving victim assistance not only helps crime victims," said Councilmember Andrews. "It is a cost effective way of increasing the chance of successful prosecution. When the criminal justice system reaches out to victims they are more likely to testify against their assailants. I applaud Chief Moose for his leadership. He truly recognizes the importance and public safety benefits of victim assistance."

The County Council will take final action on these items in May.

###